

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03990 171316Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----057418 171318Z /46

O R 171223Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8735  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3990

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, LE, US  
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH WALID JUMBLATT

REF: BEIRUT 3962

1. PSP LEADER WALID JUMBLATT MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS DURING  
LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 13:

2. HE HAD RETURNED FROM HIS LATEST VISIT TO DAMASCUS TWO  
DAYS EARLIER WITH THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT THE SYRIANS  
WERE DETERMINED TO PERFORM THEIR PEACE-KEEPING ROLE IN  
LEBANON "AT ANY PRICE." HE FEARS THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE  
LEFT FOR THE LEBANESE IS A SYRIAN SOLUTION. "IT IS TOO LATE

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FOR A LEBANESE SOLUTION. AND PARTITION, WHICH IS WHAT  
ISRAEL WANTS, IS UNACCEPTABLE." THEREFORE, WALID AND HIS  
FRONT OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES "MUST ACCEPT" WHAT HE CALLS  
THE "SYRIANIZATION" OF LEBANON "BUT VERY RELUCTANTLY."

3. ALSO COMMENTING ON HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS, JUMBLATT  
SAID THAT THERE WAS NO TALK OF A BROAD NATIONAL FRONT IN

HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ASSAD BUT THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT WAS DETERMINED TO CRUSH TO KATAEB AND AHRAR. (BEIRUT PRESS HAD CARRIED SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT ASSAD AND JUMBLATT HAD "REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND AGREED ON CONTINUATION OF SECURITY EFFORTS AND NECESSITY OF BRINGING ALL ELEMENTS IN LEBANON UNDER CONTROL OF LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY.")

4. JUMBLATT ADMITS THAT "ALL PALESTINIANS" IN SABRA AND SHATILA CAMPS ARE ARMED, BUT HIS IDEA OF "DISARMING" THEM IS TO HAVE ADF DEPLOY THEIR TROOPS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO "CONTROL ACCESS ROADS TO PALESTINIAN STRONGHOLDS."

5. THE CHRISTIANS IN EAST BEIRUT, JUMBLATT SAID, MAY BE ANXIOUS TO ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE ARMY INSTEAD OF ADF, BUT WEST BEIRUT MUSLIMS ARE NOT WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGALITY OF "WHAT THE CHRISTIANS CALL THE LEBANESE ARMY."

6. TALKING ABOUT PROCESS OF REPLACING SARKIS IF HE WERE TO RESIGN, AN NAHAR MANAGER MARWAN HAMADE, ANOTHER DRUZE, POINTED OUT THAT A LEGAL PROCEDURE EXISTS AND THAT A PRESIDENT'S "DEPARTURE IS NOT THE END OF EVERYTHING AND SHOULD NOT MEAN LEBANON'S COLLAPSE." HE AND JUMBLATT AGREED THAT IT IS OFFENSIVE TO MUSLIMS TO BE TREATED AS IF THEY COULD NOT BE TRUSTED WITH THE COUNTRY "EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS" DURING THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PRESIDENT AND THAT IS WHY PRIME MINISTER HOSS (AND OTHER MUSLIMS) WOULD NOT WANT TO RESIGN.

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7. HAMADE ALSO SAID THAT THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS MUST SEVER THEIR ISRAELI CONNECTION. HE FEELS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AS A "SPURIOUS FACTOR" IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION. THEIR PRESENCE VIOLATES THE UNDERSTANDING OF 1943 AND IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE "EVEN IN THE LEAST ARAB OF ALL ARAB COUNTRIES." PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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